



## California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	01-07-02	Interpretation #	02-007
Topic	Fire Alarm Visual Display in Group I Occupancies		
Code Section(s)	§1007.2.7.1.2[a], California Fire Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	Tom O'Brien Rauland-Borg Corp 3450 W Oakton St Skokie, IL 60076-2951		

**SCENARIO:** The following questions concern the technical requirements for visual display of smoke detector activation in the hospital corridor for the room where an alarm occurs.

1. ***Must the corridor lamp be a supervised component of the fire alarm system connecting directly to the fire alarm panel power source?***

No. Visual display of a smoke detector in the corridor need not be a supervised component of the fire alarm system. Section 1-5.8.1 of NFPA 72 requires that system reliability and availability notification appliance circuits are monitored for integrity. The appliance itself is neither monitored nor supervised. However, supervision is required if the visual display circuit is connected to or receives power from the fire alarm system.

2. ***Can the nurse call system dome light located in the corridor outside the patient room serve as this visual display if the nurse call system is on an emergency power circuit and equipped with battery backup AND the visual indicator is a unique colored bulb not used for any other call display in the nurse call system?***

No. Section 1007.3.2 provides that the smoke detector light must be used only for that purpose. In addition, California law requires that each fire alarm component—including the visual display circuit connected to a fire alarm system— must be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal for the specific application for which it is installed.

3. ***Is a local fire alarm annunciator also required at the nurses station to display patient room smoke detector alarms? If so, must this annunciator be a supervised component of the fire alarm system?***

No. Section 308.10[a], California Building Code, provides that the fire alarm annunciator located at the nurses station is only required to give an audible and visual alarm. Section 1-5.7.1.2, NFPA 72, requires that fire alarm systems serving two or more zones shall identify the zone of origin or the alarm initiation by annunciation.

4. ***If the master station can display a unique fire alarm indication that is not used for any other function in the nurse call system and that indication is higher in priority hierarchy than the other nurse call system alarms, can the nurse call system master station be used for the audible and visual alarm indication instead of a local fire alarm annunciator?***

Yes. Again, each component must be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal for the specific application for which it is installed.